

Correcting the path

Egypt and opportunities to benefit from international experiences to combat **child labor**

Editing
Sherif Abdel Hamid

Prepared by
Muhammad Mukhtar



Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend
Nederland



we motivate
your well ...
well-being

Executive summary

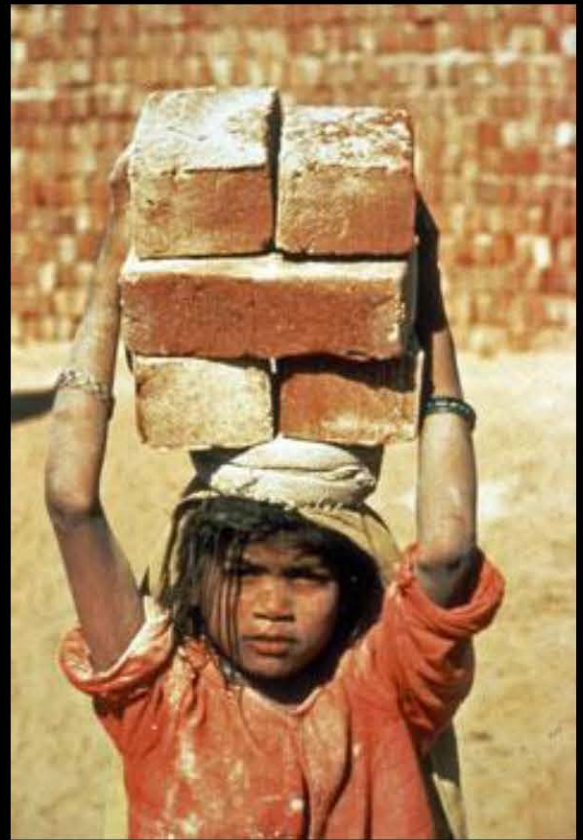
The physical and psychological safety of children globally, especially in developing and poor regions, has become difficult to achieve due to the daily threats posed by children long working hours in precarious conditions to help their families out of the clutches of extreme poverty, as many children are forced to leave education to help their parents or themselves earning a living in light of threats to their lives. It is estimated that there are more than 160 million children working



around the world in an inhumane atmosphere tainted by a degree of exploitation resulting from their young age and lack of maturity. In this way, many national and international efforts are joining forces to defeat and combat child labor by facing the conditions and challenges conducive to it, especially poverty, evasion from education and the spread of negative stereotypes. Many parties have turned to strengthening social protection efforts in addition to promoting education and putting pressure on stakeholders involved in supporting child labor children, whether directly or indirectly, as well as strengthening institutional capacities to reduce the phenomenon and create a state of societal awareness of its seriousness, using a range of tools, including technology and soft power, besides the official government tools represented by social protection programs from countries and international organizations, in addition to the human rights pressure campaigns, so this study attempts to shed light on the international experiences that were used in combating child labor to come up with a set of lessons learned and tools that enabled countries to overcome the phenomenon, with the aim of applying some of them in some countries in a way that contributes to eliminating the phenomenon. The study sets an example on how the Egyptian government can benefit from reducing child labor based on the international experiences and lessons learned.

Study Methodology

In the process of documenting and collecting information on the international experiences of governments, international organizations and civil society organizations in combating child labor, the study relied on a quantitative monitoring process for all national plans and policies of countries aimed at reducing the phenomenon of child labor, including reviewing the national reports submitted by countries to the Committee on the rights of the child at the United Nations, in addition to surveying all the activities of the international organizations affiliated with the United Nations within countries such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), besides the efforts of the global initiatives of civil society organizations, including some individual movements of people so that all efforts are monitored and analyzed using the inferential trend in order to identify the classification of these efforts in the form of similar categories that can be considered an inferred pattern that constitutes a consistent behavior towards combating the phenomenon of child labor, and at a later stage of the study these patterns were analyzed to come up with a set of influential tools used by the actors in reducing the phenomenon, as the study tried to link What is the difference between these tools and experiences to show how to benefit from them by analyzing the phenomenon of child labor in Egypt and How to apply international experiences and their tools in limiting the phenomenon, taking into account all social contexts, norms and stereotypes that distinguish the Egyptian case from other cases.



The Common Factor: The Framework for Global Experiences in Combating Child Labor

The experiences of combating child labor and limiting the negative human rights effects resulting from it in a large number of countries were initially linked to recognizing and studying the

phenomenon, then formulating national policies and plans to recover from the causes leading to its widespread spread. This is reinforced by the United Nations General Assembly urging the international community to intensify Its efforts to eradicate the phenomenon, in addition to the work of specialized international organizations to raise awareness of the phenomenon and reduce it. For example, the United Nations Children’s Fund “UNICEF” implements many activities and events with the aim of eliminating the causes that lead to the exacerbation of child labor, such as the spread of extreme poverty that forces children to enter the labor market In order to meet the material needs of their families, there is another aspect related to the commitment of countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by the United Nations in 2015, as the seventh target of the eighth goal states the need to address child labor and promote ways of recovery for those who have been exposed to it. As a result, Alliance 8.7 was established with the aim of coordinating global efforts, sharing knowledge and ultimately accelerating progress to achieve the maximum outcome in eliminating child labour.¹

In this regard; Countries, international organizations and civil society are interested in combating the economic vulnerability associated with poverty, as it is the main motive for children to go to work, so they have no choice but to work to help their families survive and escape from the clutches of extreme poverty. For example, the Nigerian Ministry of Labor and Employment launched in 2021 social investment programs to prevent Increasing child labor in supply chains, as about 600,000 vulnerable families in rural and urban areas benefit from the program.² On the other hand, some countries have taken intervention measures with the aim of preventing dropouts from education and involving children in it. The lack of education is a major reason for the increase in the phenomenon of child labor. Efforts are being made in Bangladesh to provide Appropriate education for children, especially for those who are difficult to reach in urban areas, in cooperation with international organizations such as UNICEF. ³In the midst of this, some countries continue to strengthen the capabilities and institutional tools for them to combat the phenomenon to the fullest, whether by issuing more laws or by training the employees of the

¹ بادروا بالتحرك الآن ضعوا حداً لعمالة الأطفال، الأمم المتحدة ، يونيو 2021 <https://bit.ly/3igamvN>

² These 4 countries are taking action against child labour .International Labour Organization .<https://bit.ly/2SpXUi6>

³ Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention Fifth periodic reports of States parties due in 2012 Bangladesh .<https://bit.ly/3qsbRJd>

various bodies on ways to deal with child labor Perhaps the closest example of this is the organization of regional training courses by the Government of Azerbaijan for law enforcement officials to enhance their capabilities to curb the phenomenon.⁴

On the other hand, many international organizations concerned with children's rights launched boycott calls towards companies involved in the purchase of raw materials and involved in financing child labor operations, whether directly or indirectly, forcing some companies to engage in programs aimed at eliminating child labor, in light of the pressure on stakeholders involved in child labor issues to stop their practice or try to find a solution to the phenomenon, the best example of this is the giant Swiss food company Nestle, which pumps about \$45 million into programs to eliminate child labor⁵, not only this, but the use of applications has increased For example, the Dutch company Tony Chocolonilli, which relies on chocolate products coming from West Africa, has developed an experimental model using blockchain technology, which aims to monitor the supply chain of chocolate manufacturing in its various stages, whether it is from the beginning of the product, which is raw material to its final stage in order to ensure that children do not participate in the work during the production stages,⁶ and on the other hand, the use of soft power in introducing child labor is still recent among the authorities concerned with combating the phenomenon. For example, the Lebanese Ministry of Culture cooperates with the National Higher Institute of Music, in addition to the participation of the International Labor Organization and Maestro Salim Sahab in raising awareness of the extent of child labor and mobilizing various efforts to eliminate it.⁷



In this way, the latest human rights estimate for year 2020 indicates a worrying decline in international and national efforts to combat child labor,

⁴ Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports submitted by Azerbaijan under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2018 .
<https://bit.ly/3xQZZ5S>

⁵ بعد ضغوط منظمات حقوقية نستلة توافق على خطة الكاكو لمحاربة تشغيل الأطفال، الاقتصادية ، سبتمبر 2020 ،
<https://bit.ly/3wWFYlf>

⁶ TECHNOLOGY TO FIGHT CHILD EXPLOITATION: A TOOL NOT TO BE UNDERESTIMATED .tomorrow.city .JULY 13, 2020 .
<https://bit.ly/3jm5ntw>

⁷ جوقة وطنية في لبنان لمكافحة عمالة الأطفال، أخبار الأمم المتحدة ، مارس 2018 ،
<https://bit.ly/3vXP1de>

as more than 160 million children around the world work in hazardous environments that affect their mental and physical health, which represents 1 in 10 of all children. This figure represents an increase of 8.4 million from 2016,⁸ which portends dire consequences at all levels and indicates the need to intensify international cooperation mechanisms between states, governments and civil society organizations in order to exchange experiences and expertise on how to combat the phenomenon of child labor and what are the appropriate strategies to reduce it. In light of this matter, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association launches this study with the aim of shedding light on the successful international experiences in combating child labor, analyzing them and coming up with a set of lessons learned about them, which enables all parties concerned with combating the phenomenon to develop a system through which it is possible to address the phenomenon. The Association refers to this matter in a case study on how the Egyptian government has benefited from these experiences in strengthening the national framework aimed at eliminating the phenomenon and the associated legal risks.

Practical experiences: State mechanisms to protect children from labor risks

There are many mechanisms for effective actors in dealing with the fight against child labor, whether they are countries, international organizations or civil society organizations and movements. This has emerged in a number of patterns and strategies, including reducing extreme poverty rates through social development programs and providing services, in addition to encouraging related basic education initiatives, As well as combating dropouts from education, not to mention the pressure on stakeholders and beneficiaries of child labor, as well as monitoring the global supply chain for the transformation of natural resources, raw materials and components into the final product in which children participate in a large part of the labor, along with changing societal stereotypes and norms. And the perceived habits of child labor, in addition to strengthening the institutional and legal framework through training programs for law enforcement agencies or issuing new laws and legislation, at the same time, some parties raised the issue for public discussion between academics and researchers to discuss and come up with

⁸ CHILD LABOUR GLOBAL ESTIMATES 2020, TRENDS AND THE ROAD FORWARD .International Labour Organization and United Nations Children .<https://bit.ly/3qs7hdl>

a set of solutions that are applicable on the ground, and the following is an explanation In more detail each of the previous mechanisms and tools used in Each mechanism, including:-

First: Fighting poverty and promoting development: Poverty is the main reason for the spread of child labor in many countries, especially African countries. The lack of family income forces children to go to work in risky environments so that they become a means of support for their families to secure a source of income in the face of the economic and social weakness they suffer. In order to address social inequality and economic fragility, many countries and international organizations have issued social security programs to raise the standard of living of families and empower them economically. At the country level, the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Development in Afghanistan conducted a set of vocational courses for about 794 families who live near brick kiln factories, where child labor is active in these factories, to enable them economically and to help prevent their children from engaging in hard work inside those factories, not only this, but Children working in brick kilns receive financial support in accordance with the National Strategic Action Plan for the Protection of Street Child Labor developed by the Ministry.⁹ On the other hand, in Nigeria, more than 600,000 vulnerable families in rural and urban areas have benefited through social investment programs to prevent an increase in child labor provided by the Ministry of Labour and employment.¹⁰

In a related context, the UN institutions implemented a set of joint programs either alone or in partnership with governments with the aim of increasing the income of families suffering from poverty so that their young children would not fall prey to hard work in dangerous areas. In India, the Rural Development Project provided by the World Bank contributed to encouraging economic development. For women, creating a favorable environment that strengthened the prevention of child labor, and the World Bank's programs in Thailand succeeded in reducing poverty, which was positively



⁹ Combined 2nd to 5th report submitted by Afghanistan under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2016 : Convention on the Rights of the Child. Ipd

¹⁰ These 4 countries are taking action against child labour'Ipd

reflected in the decrease in child labor between the ages of three and fourteen years of age.¹¹ Similarly, in Salvador, the International Labor Organization implemented a project to eliminate child labor through economic empowerment and social inclusion between December 2010 and March 2016 with a total budget of \$12.7 million, which boosted the income of 5,100 families and contributed to saving 7,800 children who were at risk of joining child labor.¹² On the other hand, in April 2021, the Ministry of Working in Ghana in cooperation with the International Labor Organization and the European Union Trade for Decent Work Project with the aim of promoting inclusive economic growth to eradicate Children's money by improving the economic situation of families suffering from poverty and engaging their children in work,¹³ as well as for the State of Mali, where the International Labor Organization launched in June 2021 a program for the social and professional reintegration of children exposed to labor in cotton products, especially in the regions of Sikasso and Segou in southern Mali.¹⁴ The World Bank in Nigeria is participating in the Social Investment Program to reduce the poverty of 2.5 million families.¹⁵

Second: Supporting basic education initiatives and combating school dropouts: Most of the efforts related to combating child labor sought to help children complete their education, in addition to implementing programs to train children professionally so that they can earn a living in the future, in addition to providing accelerated learning services, as there is a clear relationship between dropping out of education and the widespread spread of child labor. At the country level, the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Development in Afghanistan was able to provide 1,800 children with accelerated learning services in addition to facilitating vocational training for 300 children,¹⁶ while Burkina Faso provided vocational education for children working in gold

¹¹ عمالة تشغيل الأطفال قضايا واتجاهات بالنسبة للبنك الدولي، <https://bit.ly/3qsCP3b>

¹² Eliminating child labour in El Salvador through economic empowerment and social inclusion –

Final Evaluation Summary. International Labour Organization. <https://bit.ly/3A0oijB>

¹³ ILO and EU Launch the Trade for Decent Work (T4DW) Project in Ghana. Europa. <https://bit.ly/3xTMnqn>

¹⁴ ILO launches the socio-professional reintegration for young people exposed to child labour in Mali. International Labour Organization. <https://bit.ly/3hnd4xl>

¹⁵ ILO Supports Nigeria's Response to Child Labour Emergency. International Labour Organization <https://bit.ly/2T73ieo>

¹⁶ Combined 2nd to 5th report submitted by Afghanistan under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2016 : Convention on the Rights of the Child. Ipd

mining sites and in the agricultural sector, as they provide alternative training for them in the areas of domestic labor and non-dangerous professions.¹⁷

On the other hand, governments participate alongside UN institutions, factories and companies in education programs to combat child labor, whether these programs are for vocational education, basic education, illiteracy eradication or combating dropouts from education, and in this way, in Argentina, trade unions and companies cooperated with the government to hold Training and



educational courses for children involved in the tobacco industry with the aim of providing them with vocational education¹⁸, while the Ministry of Planning and Higher Education in Bangladesh, with the support of UNICEF, implemented a project aimed at providing education to children at risk of child labor in remote areas and during the second phase of the project from July 2004 to 2011, 6 educational centers were opened to provide basic education based on life skills for about 166,150 working children,¹⁹ not only this, but the alternative learning program provides an alternative opportunity for out-of-school children to learn skills through a group of vocational centers so that they do not fall victim to child labor, with the support Full from UNICEF.²⁰

In the same context, the ILO launched in June 2020 the Accelerated Education Strategy in Burkina Faso and Mali with the aim of providing schools with school tools for children working in the cotton industry, in cooperation with local civil society organizations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in addition to co-financing from the European Union. The project also opened 40 centers (20 per country) and one of the most important results

¹⁷ 5e ET 6e RAPPORTS DE SUIVI DE LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DE LA CONVENTION RELATIVE AUX DROITS DE L'ENFANT ET DE SES 2 PROTOCOLES FACULTATIFS <https://uni.cf/3jfUXvy>

¹⁸ Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Argentina due in 2016 under article 44 of the Convention

¹⁹ Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention Fifth periodic reports of States parties due in 2012 Bangladesh <https://bit.ly/3xb6P6t>

²⁰ Education for adolescents. <https://uni.cf/3dgbs78>

of the project was the return of 914 children to education again.²¹ On the other hand, the Thomas Confectionery Group, a Danish chocolate company, worked from 2007 to 2010 to increase children's access to quality education in cocoa-producing regions in Africa.²²

Third: Pressure on Stakeholders and Beneficiaries of Child Labor:



Maat Foundation estimates monitored the major companies in the food and technology industries such as Nestlé, Apple and Tesla to be involved in child labor operations in African countries such as Congo and Ivory Coast,²³ which led to pressure on these companies in various ways from Before human rights institutions, international civil society organizations and movements to

participate in activities to combat child labor in Africa in addition to stopping being involved in supporting child labor, and in this way, Canadian civil society organizations launched societal pressure campaigns with the aim of forcing companies to market in an ethical manner and stop buying Products that are co-manufactured by children, and as such a lobbying campaign succeeded in obtaining 10,000 letters to the Canadian government's Subcommittee on International Human Rights calling on the government to step in and reject merchandise sold to these companies in Canada, not to mention the widespread boycott campaigns for these products. It's not that far, but these companies provide ethical alternatives to consumers for companies that don't get involved in related products child labour.²⁴

Meanwhile, global pressure through moral boycotts has contributed to the participation of the Swiss food giant Nestle to pump 40 million francs annually (about 45 million dollars) into a

²¹ Combating child labour in times of COVID-19: the example of the CLEAR Cotton project. International Labour Organization https://www.ilo.org/ipe/news/WCMS_797527/lang--en/index.htm

²² Emerging good practice in combating the worst forms of child labour in West African cocoa growing communities. <https://bit.ly/35TicUq>

²³ الشركات متعددة الجنسيات تتعدي على حقوق الإنسان في الدول الإفريقية، ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان، مايو 2021 - <https://bit.ly/3qtO1wl>

²⁴ No child for sale . world vision . <https://bit.ly/3did9kB>

program aimed at eliminating child labor in the cocoa supply chain,²⁵ but Nestlé is working on reducing poverty and supporting education programs in African child labor areas. For example, the company has saved more than 128,000 children from the dangers of child labor since 2012 through education support programs and the fight against poverty.²⁶

Fourth: Monitoring the global supply chain for products: The process of monitoring the supply chain for products refers to following up the stage of transferring a product or service from the supplier to the customer through the various stages of production, in order to ensure that children are not involved in any stage of the product manufacturing process, as the stages of product manufacturing are monitored. Manufacturing in many ways to ensure this condition is met. At the legal level, many countries issue laws to ensure that children are protected from the dangers of hard work by obligating countries to monitor the supply chain of a product or service. In Germany, the government issued in June 2021 the German Supply Chain Law with the aim of holding companies accountable in the event of its involvement in the purchase of raw materials or services based on child labor in the supply chain,²⁷ moreover, multiple parties use technological applications in combating child labor by mapping supply chain pathways for industries related to child labor. Dutch confectionery pilots using blockchain technology to monitor the supply chain of cocoa products that are active in their workforce in order to ensure that children are not involved in work during the production chain of the product.²⁸

On the other hand, the Indian government cooperated with the International Labor Organization in mapping the cotton supply chain to eliminate child labor to ensure that its main industry is ethical²⁹. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, machine learning techniques were used to monitor the product chain with the aim of eliminating child labor.³⁰ Action International in Kyrgyzstan is partnering with young IT professionals to find ways to apply innovative digital technologies to help monitor child labor among the things discussed is the use of technology to

²⁵ بعد ضغوط منظمات حقوقية نستله توافق على خطة الكاكاو لمحاربة تشغيل الأطفال، مرجع سابق ذكره

²⁶ How is Nestlé tackling child labor risk?. Nestle. <https://bit.ly/3y8x65t>

²⁷ LIEFERKETTENGESETZ: BUNDESREGIERUNG MUSS AUF EU-EBENE NACHBESSERN. unicef. <https://bit.ly/3vXuh5u>

²⁸ TECHNOLOGY TO FIGHT CHILD EXPLOITATION: A TOOL NOT TO BE UNDERESTIMATED ipd

²⁹ Indian state to map cotton supply chain to stamp out child labour. Yahoo. August , 2019 <https://yhoo.it/2Ss6H35>

³⁰ How AI is helping uncover modern slavery. Miragenews. <https://bit.ly/3A3q1EG>

track the movement of products to ensure that children are not involved in the supply chain of products that children are involved in.³¹

Fifth: Increasing awareness and changing stereotypes about the issue of child labor:

Changing the overall awareness, stereotypes, and entrenched cultural biases as a result of perceptions based on customs and traditions, in addition to raising awareness of child labor issues and their impact on human rights and their link to impact on society is one of the most difficult processes because it requires changing patterns of behavior which was built over long periods, and in this context, many organizations have used different methods to change the culture of society and raise awareness of the dangers of child labor. For example, movements and civil society organizations use music as a tool to communicate awareness of the dangers of child labor and the biggest example of this is the World Music Initiative against Child Labor Children that was established in 2013 to dedicate concerts and songs to combating child labor in order to raise awareness of the dangers of the issue.³²

In a related context, the International Labor Organization launched a song about child labor calling on governments, organizations and people from all walks of life to exert more effort to take a stand against child labor.³³ In March 2018, the International Labor Organization, in cooperation with the Lebanese government, launched an initiative that seeks to combat child labor and empower children and give them a voice through music, in cooperation with a large number of orchestras,³⁴ not only that, but a group of song and music competitions are organized by movements and organizations with the aim of combating child labor. A good example of this is the arbitration competition of the Music Against Child Labor initiative, which presents different songs that work on Raising awareness of the dangers of child labor.³⁵

On the other hand, many countries and international organizations launched awareness campaigns against child labor, and in this way, Argentina launched an awareness campaign

³¹ Kyrgyzstan: Looking for digital solutions to combat child labour .International Labour Organization.

<https://bit.ly/3x0BSBw>

³² The global Music Against Child Labour Initiative (MACLI. <https://bit.ly/3xWHY62>

³³ Kids United launch their new single, "Take a Stand" for Universal Children's Day. Musicagainstchildlabour.

<https://bit.ly/2Tb3DsD>

³⁴ جوقة وطنية في لبنان لمكافحة عمالة الأطفال، أخبار الأمم المتحدة، <https://bit.ly/3vXP1de>

³⁵ Laura Pausini: Education and music empowers children. International Labour Organization <https://bit.ly/3jiS9h0>

entitled “The Value Chain against Child Labor” from 2012 to 2014. The government also organized a race to raise awareness against the dangers of child labor under the title “For a Childhood Free from child labor”, with the attendance of 5,000 participants,³⁶ and in this context, a Canadian civil society organization has made a list of the most important companies involved in child labor through the supply chain of products to launch boycott campaigns against it while providing alternatives. This is one of the most important ways to raise awareness among the public about issues Child labor and the related common issues affecting child labor.³⁷

Sixth: Strengthening the institutional and legal framework for countries and organizations:

Governments and international institutions are strengthening their capabilities to combat child labor in many ways, including issuing laws or training personnel concerned with operations to combat child labor, in addition to issuing training manuals that enable civil society organizations to train their employees on operations to combat child labor Children and related issues. In Azerbaijan, the government implemented training courses for workers in child labor operations with the aim of enhancing their capabilities. On the other hand, the Ugandan government enacted laws and formulated policies to combat child labor.³⁸ In 2018, the Mozambican government signed a memorandum of cooperation and understanding with one of the civil society organizations to establish a platform to combat child labor aimed at building the institutional capacities of the authorities responsible for combating child labor³⁹. The Syrian government also cooperates with international institutions, especially the International Labor Organization, with the aim of conducting a national statistical survey of child labor to know the extent of the issue and identify the challenges associated with it.⁴⁰ In Cambodia, an organization conducted UNICEF training courses for law enforcement officials to change social behavior and perception Cultural attitudes of law enforcement officials towards the issue of child labor.⁴¹

Seventh: Enhancing academic participation and searching for societal mechanisms:

International organizations and effective bodies are working to launch academic competitions

³⁶ Combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Argentina due in 2016 under article 44 of the Convention

³⁷ Fair Trade Chocolate Guide.world vision . <https://bit.ly/3jkKhvJ>

³⁸ It Takes a Global Village to Tackle Child Labor on Farms. Rainforest. <https://bit.ly/35TMvGm>

³⁹ SYSTEMS TO PROTECT CHILDREN. ANNUAL REPORT 2020. <https://bit.ly/3xYKmZZ>

⁴⁰ Tackling child labour and empowering children in Syria. . International Labour Organization. <https://bit.ly/2T1diWl>

⁴¹ Cambodia. <https://bit.ly/3qEtDZT>

with the aim of searching for solutions to the phenomenon of child labor in addition to enhancing academic discussion to come up with a set of recommendations and innovative solutions that are suitable for implementation on the ground. For example, in June 2021 the International Labor Organization (ILO) launched a competition calling for innovative solutions with a social impact to accelerate work towards combating child labor, and this strengthens the cultural and academic framework for finding solutions to combat the phenomenon.⁴²

Despite the international efforts to eliminate the causes that lead to the spread of the phenomenon of child labor at many levels, Maat Association indicates the lack of international experiences regarding the transition from the informal economy to the formal economy as a means to combat child labor, as human rights estimates indicate that child labor in the informal economy represents one of the challenges related to combating the phenomenon of child labor.

Containing Threats: Tools States Have Used to Combat Child Labor

Through the study of Maat Association for the totality of international experiences that tried to reduce the negative effects of the phenomenon of child labor, the Association found the use of a set of effective tools that can be blinded at the level of countries and civil society organizations, in order to recover from the negative effects related to combating child labor, and these tools can be included in some ways Detail as follows:-

First: Long-term programs and action plans: Government programs and national strategies, in addition to the programs of international organizations in a certain region, are considered one of the most effective tools to combat the negative effects arising from the phenomenon of child labor. Adopting social protection programs in light of these programs can alleviate poverty and economic uncertainty. Those associated with children going to work to help their families increase income and overcome oppressive economic conditions, as these programs and initiatives provide opportunities to increase the income of low-income families, not only this, but also programs to prevent dropouts from education in addition to vocational training programs provide a better opportunity to prevent children from engaging in dangerous work especially alternative education programmes, also the training manuals emanating from international initiatives

⁴² Digital Information Systems for collaborative work to end child labour, forced labour and human trafficking. International Labour Organization <https://bit.ly/2U6ushO>

provide a great opportunity to train civil society organizations and law enforcement agencies to raise the capabilities of individuals in facing the phenomenon of child labor in addition to changing their view of the issue in a positive way.

Second: Cooperation between states, UN bodies and civil society institutions: Cooperation protocols between civil society organizations, governments and UN bodies represent one of the most important tools that have greatly contributed to reducing the harm caused by child labor, whether it is through fighting poverty, providing education or changing negative cultural view of child labor.

Third: Global Initiatives and Pressure Campaigns: Boycott and signature campaigns are considered an important means of putting pressure on corporate stakeholders or putting pressure on governments to force them to retreat from their negative role in combating child labor, in addition to forcing them to participate in development efforts related to combating the causes leading to the phenomenon. These campaigns obliged many companies and stakeholders such as the Swiss company Nestlé, which is currently spending a lot of money to fight the phenomenon of child labour.

Fourth: The role of technology in combating the phenomenon of child labor: Technological applications contribute to combating child labor, whether through monitoring the supply chain of products to ensure that children are not involved in any dangerous work during the product cycle from manufacturing in the initial stages to the final stages, or through training families of working children on a technology-based skill set, which contributes to improving their financial condition and stopping their children from working and returning to school, and perhaps the most vivid example of this is the use of blockchain technology to monitor the supply chain of products.

Fifth: The role of soft power and societal discussions: Soft power resources contribute significantly to raising awareness of child labor issues in addition to discussing the risks involved. Soft power resources include advertising campaigns issued by international institutions to publicize the issue of child labor, not to mention the use of music through songs to raise awareness. With the issue of child labor and its associated human rights risks, songs reach the largest number of the public, which makes them an effective tool for gaining the sympathy of citizens for solidarity with working children. Moreover, promotional publications based on

negative publicity against stakeholders involved in child labor are considered a tool to pressure and force them. On changing their practices, the best example of this is the evidence launched by a Canadian civil society organization on products that use child labor and which calls for its boycott and dispensing with a more transparent alternative. On the other hand, academic discussions and research competitions are effective tools to raise the issue in society and find solutions for it. In an advanced stage, these tools aim to change behavior patterns, negative stereotypes, and negative attitudes cultural issue.

Sixth: Legal tools: States' commitment to international law and treaties to protect children from dangerous labor, in addition to issuing laws that combat the phenomenon of child labor, is an important tool to preserve children's rights and prevent them from working in precarious conditions. Not only this, but the issuance of laws to hold companies accountable in the case of its involvement in the purchase of raw materials or services based on child labor in the supply chain is one of the most important tools to curb the grouping of companies and stakeholders involved in the employment of children in places that pose a threat to their psychological and personal safety.

After reviewing the experiences of the various bodies in combating child labor and devising the most important patterns that they used to reduce the phenomenon through a set of effective tools that contributed greatly to promoting children's rights and limiting their work in dangerous places, the next part of the study sheds light on the phenomenon of child labor in Egypt and how to benefit from the application of patterns and tools that have resulted from international experiences to reduce the phenomenon in all parts of Egypt.

Potential engagement: lessons learned from combating child labor globally and their application to the Egyptian case

Although the Egyptian government has undertaken a series of efforts to reduce the phenomenon of child labor, which was indicated by Maat Association in one of its reports, especially in combating poverty related to child labor, in addition to providing education programs for children at risk of joining the labor market, not to mention strengthening the institutional capacities of individuals The government apparatus responsible for combating child labor, as well as the joint training between international institutions and the Egyptian government to combat the causes of

the phenomenon. However, there are a number of challenges that stand in the way of combating the phenomenon, including the lack of updated and reliable data and statistics on the phenomenon, in addition to social tolerance with the phenomenon, especially among law enforcement officials and those responsible for combating the phenomenon, as well as the lack of networking and communication between the institutions concerned with combating the phenomenon and the absence of the oversight role of the workforce offices, while poverty and the absence of adequate social security programs are one of the most important challenges to combating the phenomenon in Egypt, as well as the spread of children in the work of the informal economy, which causes difficulty in monitoring the number of children in this sector, as a the societal stigma and shyness from society pushes children to work for reasons related to their stigmatization of lack of manhood if they refuse to work at a young age.⁴³

Based on the analysis of the Egyptian experience in combating child labor and its sponsorship of the social contexts of Egypt and comparing it with other countries, especially the conditions of child labor in agriculture and seasonal work in Egypt and child labor in cotton fields and mining areas in Africa, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association recommends to the active actors in Egypt interested in combating the phenomenon of Child labor a set of recommendations to benefit from international experiences to combat the phenomenon and overcome it in this way:-

- With regard to the challenge of institutional fragility, the Egyptian government has to issue more training manuals and hold trainings for persons responsible for law enforcement in the field of combating child labor in order to enhance their capabilities to deepen awareness of understanding the phenomenon, in addition to the need for coordination between different agencies through a binding legal mechanism to achieve this, it should benefit from the experience of Azerbaijan and Mozambique, in addition to the experiences of the International Labor Organization, especially those related to training manuals.
- Soft power is an important tool for changing the societal view, negative customs and traditions, and stereotypes towards the phenomenon of child labor. As the challenge of the spread of negative stereotypes towards the phenomenon of child labor represents a challenge to the

⁴³ عمالة الأطفال في مصر في إطار أهداف التنمية المستدامة الجهود والعقبات، ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان ، <https://bit.ly/3wYVMwU>

Egyptian society because of the wrong customs and traditions that will change it on the long level. The adoption of the Egyptian government and the concerned authorities to combat child labor, media campaigns discuss the phenomenon to raise awareness of the phenomenon, in addition to the need for the Syndicate of Musical Professions to adopt campaigns and competitions to shed light on the phenomenon of child labor through songs and music. From the experience of the World Music Initiative against Child Labor and its activities, in addition to the government's experience in launching propaganda campaigns in Argentina.

- The necessity of using technology to reduce extreme poverty, which is the main factor for the spread of this phenomenon of child labor, in addition to moving forward in the Egyptian digital strategy and the inclusion of issues of child labor among them. It is possible to benefit here from the use of blockchain technology in tracking the supply chain of the montage, which many countries has taken.
- Civil society organizations should find stakeholders involved in child labor to pressure them through various campaigns such as signature campaigns to ensure their accountability in addition to their participation in solutions to reduce the phenomenon, and the largest example of this is the campaign of the Canadian Civil Society Organization to fight to highlight the responsibility of companies for involvement in child labor children.
- The necessity of promoting alternative education initiatives and vocational education and benefiting from the presence of 37 vocational educational institutions in Egypt, such as Toshiba Elaraby School, We Telecommunication School and Ghabbour Auto School, by including children at risk of forced labor in these institutions by providing them with the necessary training, in cooperation with the Egyptian government.
- The Egyptian government should study the phenomenon of the informal economy in the context of combating child labor and how to transform the informal economy into a formal one by presenting the crisis to societal and academic discussion through seminars and scientific competitions with the aim of developing solutions to it in the context of combating child labor, due to the lack of international experiences to combat child labour.